

**Wixom Lake Improvement Board (WLIB) Meeting and Public Hearing for
Resolution Approving Practicality and Expenditure of Excess Assessments/Funds on Disaster Relief
Activities
Meeting/Hearing Minutes
July 17, 2021**

Meeting called to order at the Beaverton High School Gymnasium by Chairman Joe Sova at 4:01 pm

Board Members Present: Carol Ayers, Joe Sova, Ray Drumright, Larry Woodard, Robert Kelley, Jeanette Snyder, Don Zackett, Karen Moore, Terry Walters

Board Members Absent: none

Others in Attendance: Norma Stuart from Midland County Drain Commission, Lucy Zeestraten from Gladwin County Drain Commission, Kyle O'Meara attorney from Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes providing legal counsel to the board, dozens of members of public

After the pledge of allegiance, board members individually introduced themselves to the attendees of the hearing.

A revised agenda (addition of board member introductions) for the hearing was presented. Larry Woodard made a motion to approve the revised agenda which was seconded by Robert Kelley. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to present the financial statement showing an account balance of \$341,176.97 as of 7/12/2021 was made by Jeanette Snyder and seconded by Larry Woodard. After discussion, Terry Walters made a motion to accept and file the statement. Carol Ayers seconded the motion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

New invoices from local newspapers (Midland Daily News, \$425, 302252818, 6/25/21; Record and Clarion, \$355.64, 629374, 6/23/21) for publication of hearing notices were introduced. Carol Ayers made a motion to pay the invoices which was seconded by Don Zackett. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Board members reviewed minutes from the June 9, 2021 meeting.

A motion to accept and file minutes was made by Carol Ayers and seconded by Larry Woodard. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sova made summary comments as to the purpose of the public hearing which was to hear comments on a proposal to allow excess funds controlled by the WLIB to be used for disaster relief activities in addition to the purpose for which the funds were originally collected (i.e. control of invasive aquatic species). A lead example of an alternate use is treatment of terrestrial woody plants and trees growing in the lake bed.

Attorney O'Meara described the WLIB jurisdiction and summarized the content of letters received by the board prior to the public hearing.

The public hearing was formally opened at 4:21 PM. Attendees wrote their questions/comments on cards which were presented to the board. Chairman Sova and Kyle O'Meara read the cards and offered the author of the card an opportunity to speak for up to 3 minutes. The questions and comments were wide ranging covering topics such as concern over standing water in canals (mosquitos and algae),

methods of dealing with growth on the lake bed (chemical, mechanical, not at all), timing of any action, safety of any proposed herbicide treatment to people and animals, cost of any action, legality of the process, dredging of canals, support/opposition for erosion control, return of funds to taxpayers, favor/opposition to future assessments for terrestrial plant control, clarity on what individual property owners can/can't do on lakebed, laws governing lake boards, and favor/opposition of the resolution. In all cases board members listened and considered the statements. In some cases board members responded to statements.

After a little under 1.5 hours, everyone in attendance that wanted to express themselves had a chance to do so. Carol Ayers made a motion to close the public hearing which was seconded by Terry Walters. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. 5:45 PM

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Terry Walters and was seconded by Carol Ayers. Roll call vote: Carol Ayers, yes; Joe Sova, yes; Ray Drumright, yes; Larry Woodard, yes; Robert Kelley, yes; Jeanette Snyder, yes; Don Zackett, yes; Karen Moore, yes; Terry Walters, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

The attendees were given another chance to speak if they desired. A few people took the opportunity. Many thanked the board. Some reiterated earlier comments. One reminded audience that attendance at the hearing assured right to future protest.

At the close of public comment, a final item of business to pre-authorize payment of Beaverton School System for use of the gymnasium (~\$40/hr) for the public hearing was broached. Larry Woodard made a motion to preauthorize the payment of the invoice for use of the gym when it arrives and it was seconded by Robert Kelley. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Terry Walters was seconded by Carol Ayers. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. 6:03 pm.

Next WLIB meeting has yet to be scheduled.

Minutes submitted by Ray Drumright